

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 02510

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: US, UR, CH
SUBJECT: SOVIET REACTION TO HALDEMAN CLAIM

REF: MOSCOW 2154

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. SUMMARY: AUTHORITATIVE TASS STATEMENT
SPEARHEADS SOVIET MEDIA ATTACK ON HALDEMAN CLAIM RE
ALLEGED SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR JOINT US-SOVIET STRIKE ON
CHINESE NUCLEAR FACILITIES. SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT AND
RECENTLY PUBLISHED AUTHORITATIVE SOVIET BOOK REFLECT
STRONG SOVIET SENSITIVITY OVER US LEVERAGE IN TRIANGULAR
SINO-SOVIET-US RELATIONSHIP, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD
TO ITS MILITARY ASPECTS. END SUMMARY. END CONFIDENTIAL
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1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. TASS ARTICLE IN FEB 18 IZVESTIYA
AND AUTHORITATIVE TASS STATEMENT APPEARING IN FEB 20
PRAVDA (ASSUME DEPT HAS FULL FBIS TEXTS) STRONGLY
REFUTE HALDEMAN CLAIM THAT SOVIETS ATTEMPTED IN 1969
TO DRAW US INTO A JOINT STRIKE AGAINST CHINESE NUCLEAR
FACILITIES. BOTH PIECES CITE KISSINGER AND ROGER'S

DENIAL OF ALLEGED SOVIET ATTEMPT AT THAT TIME. TASS
STATEMENT ALSO:

--CASTS DOUBT ON HALDEMAN'S PROBITY BY CALLING ATTENTION
TO HIS IMPRISONMENT FOR PERJURY

--CHARGES US PRESS WITH CONTINUING A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN,
DESPITE REFUTATION BY RESPONSIBLE US OFFICIALS

--CONCLUDES BY TERMING HALDEMAN CLAIM A "SHEER FABRICATION
FROM BEGINNING TO END" DESIGNED ONLY TO ASSIST "THOSE
WITH PROVOCATIVE ENDS"

2. IZVESTIYA FEB 18 ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY PROCLAIMING
THAT SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY IS AIMED AT "ESTABLISHING
AND DEVELOPING NORMAL RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES,
INCLUDING THE PRC", AND BY NOTING THAT SOVIET PROPOSED
NON-AGGRESSION AND NON-USE OF FORCE TREATIES CONSTITUTE
EVIDENCE OF SOVIET GOOD INTENTION.

3. A FEB 19 PRAVDA COMMENTARY SHARPLY CRITICAL OF
ALLEGED NATO-PRC COLLUSION MAY HAVE BEEN AT LEAST
PARTIALLY INSPIRED BY HALDEMAN CLAIM, EVEN THOUGH IT IS
MAINLY CONCERNED WITH ATTACKING CHINESE ATTEMPTS TO
MOBILIZE A WORLD WIDE ANTI-SOVIET FRONT. ATTACKING GENERAL
HAIG FOR PUBLICIZING THE SOVIET "DANGER" POSED TO CHINA,
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COMMENTARY REPEATS FEB 10 TASS ARTICLE DENUNCIATION OF
HAIG (REPORTED REFTEL) FOR CALLING CHINA THE
"SIXTEENTH MEMBER" OF NATO. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: THE STRONG SOVIET
REACTION TO HALDEMAN'S CLAIM, INCLUDING ISSUANCE OF
AUTHORITATIVE TASS STATEMENT, ILLUSTRATES SOVIET
SENSITIVITY TOWARD THE LEVERAGE US ENJOYS IN SINO-SOVIET-
US TRIANGULAR RELATIONSHIP. THIS SENSITIVITY IS ESPECIALLY
STRONG WHEN MILITARY MATTERS ARE INVOLVED. JUST PUBLISHED
AND AUTHORITATIVE SECOND EDITION BORISOV-KOLOKOV'S
"SOVIET-CHINESE RELATIONS" CHARGES THAT "OPPONENTS OF
NORMALIZATION OF SOVIET-CHINESE RELATIONS FROM THE CAMP
OF IMPERIALISM AND INTERNATIONAL REACTION WERE VERY
CONCERNED THAT THESE RELATIONS WOULD DEVELOP POSITIVELY
FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG. THEY TRIED IN EVERY
WAY TO HINDER THAT DEVELOPMENT", ESPECIALLY BY POINTING
TO "THE ALLEGED PREPARATION OF ATTACKS BY THE SOVIET
UNION ON THE PRC". THE BOOK'S AUTHORS THEN IMPLICATE
US IN SUCH A STRATEGY BY REFERRING TO FORMER DEFENSE
SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S OCT, 1976 STATEMENT ABOUT A
"THREAT FROM THE NORTH" FACING THE PRC, AND BY CITING

KISSINGER AS STATING IN OCT, 1976 THAT "IF CHINA IS
SUBJECTED TO A MASSIVE ATTACK, THIS WOULD CREATE
UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR WORLD SECURITY." "THESE
INFLAMATORY STATEMENTS", DESIGNED TO MAKE "APPROPRIATE
IMPRESSIONS IN PEKING", THE BOOK CONTINUES, "WERE
DECISIVELY UNMASKED IN THE SOVIET PRESS". SOVIETS
UNDOUBTEDLY SEE TODAY'S TASS STATEMENT AS DESIGNED TO
ACCOMPLISHING THIS SAME MISSION. END CONFIDENTIAL.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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